

INFORM REPORT

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SUBJECT Yugoslav Repatriates to Yugoslavia on the
SS Partizanka

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1. The SS Partizanka sailed from Montevideo for Split, Yugoslavia, on 6 April 1948 at 10:30 p.m., after having arrived from Buenos Aires at 3:30 in the afternoon of the same day. The Partizanka carried 650 Yugoslav repatriates from Argentina and about 100 from Uruguay. The second voyage of this ship is scheduled for May 1948, at which time it is expected that 800 Yugoslav youths will be repatriated from Argentina.
2. The Committee for the Reconstruction of Yugoslavia, a section of the Consejo Central Yugoslav, directed the propaganda campaign for volunteer repatriates from Argentina. Before the arrival of the ship, this committee announced that all berths had been reserved for the first and second voyages and that expenses would be paid for those repatriates who could not afford the normal cost of the voyage.
3. Two weeks before the arrival of the Partizanka, it was reported that only 100 Yugoslavs in Argentina had presented themselves for repatriation, and that the vast majority of them were of a very low cultural, educational, and professional level. The Yugoslav Legation was disconcerted by this situation, and immediately initiated an intensified propaganda campaign. Officials of the Legation simultaneously began an intensified search for candidates among skilled mechanics, metallurgists, and allied industry workers.
4. Yugoslav Minister Franc Pirc recently called on President Peron at the latter's request, at which time Peron asked why so many Yugoslavs were leaving Argentina. Pirc is reported to have replied that Yugoslavia is now undergoing the same type of industrial transformation that Argentina is, and that skilled workers are badly needed in Yugoslavia to insure a successful completion of the industrialization.
5. It is reported that N. Casaniew (possibly Nikola Kazandjiev), Communist leader from Quilmes, had a lengthy interview with a group of Argentine Communists before departing. Among those present at the meeting were Victor Larraide, Jose Peter, and Pedro Tadiolo, all members of the secretariat of the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Buenos Aires. In addition, Jose de la Fuente, head of the Spanish Communists in Argentina, was present.

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6. It is believed that the Yugoslav Communists in Argentina are taking advantage of the repatriates to send large quantities of money to Yugoslavia. Ivo Boric, who was for two years head of the Yugoslav Section of the Polish Bank in Buenos Aires, is reportedly taking with him a sum estimated at 200,000 U.S. dollars. [] the repatriates from Buenos Aires included approximately 60 former Yugoslav residents of Chile, and the Yugoslav Legation is at present negotiating with the Chilean government for the release of several more from Chile, including those who had been arrested in that country. A report from Santiago, Chile, that Drago Leontic was among the out-bound passengers of the Partizanka was confirmed by sources in Argentina.
7. The following information has been obtained on the captain of the Partizanka, Andro Radic. Shortly after the arrival of the ship, Radic had a secret meeting with an old friend, Niko Dabinovic, a former sea captain from Kotor Dalmatia. Radic told Dabinovic that current conditions in Yugoslavia are very bad, and that police terrorism is increasing daily. In recounting his own experiences, Radic stated that he had been forced to be a member of a "people's court" and to sentence many people with severe penalties. He further pointed out that as captain of the ship, he has no actual control over the 191 members of the Partizanka's crew, and that he is merely the navigational director of the ship. He stated that there are six armed guards aboard the ship who maintain a 24-hour deck watch, three at a time, and that he has no control over their activities.
8. In spite of the rigid control imposed by the Argentine police and their orders that none of the crew was to be allowed ashore, source indicated that one crew member escaped by going ashore from an Argentine ship which was tied up alongside the Partizanka. This deserter, believed to be a former member of Macek's Peasant Party, immediately made contact with Argentine anti-Communist Croats. The latter, however, are reported to be skeptical of his motives, not yet being certain whether he is a sincere colleague or a Communist penetration agent.
9. In view of the feeling in Uruguay, as expressed in many newspapers there*, that the repatriation of many well-established Yugoslavs on the SS Partizanka is suspicious, information on some of the individuals who are leaving Uruguay is presented. In the list of those persons returning to Yugoslavia are found the names of some of the outstanding Yugoslav Communists in Uruguay. Konstantino (Kosta) Lutkic, who sailed with the group, was the organizer of the repatriation movement which was carried on under the auspices of the Club Yugoslava, Calle Treinta y Tres 1476. Lutkic was the leader of the Yugoslav Communists in Uruguay.
10. The following repatriates were members of Asociacion Republicana Yugoslava "Fraternidad" (Bratstvo), a Yugoslav Communist organization in Montevideo: Blago Blasevich, Martin Grguric (Gregurych), Janko Juratovac, Ivan Medanic (Medinich), Filip Papic, Marija Papic, Margarita Peci, Juan Radivoj, Stjepan Senkovic, Ana Senkovic, Josip Vidakovic, and Janko Zivoder (Zhivoder).
11. Ivan Papic, Janko Juratovac, Stanko Kordic, Stevan Papp, Filip Papic, are reported to be members of the Union Eslava.
12. Those reported to be Communists are: Jurač Banic, Marko Parcot, Valent Cizmesija, Petar Cubranic, Nikola Ciril Galjanic, Nikola Ivanac, Sime Kozulic, Luka Malinaric (Molinaric), Antun Mihalic, Sebastijan Orlic, Ivan Radivoj, Rozo Segaric, Lenka Sudar, and Ivan Spiclin.
13. [] along with the Yugoslavs who departed from Montevideo, there was a young man and a young woman (possibly his wife) who were traveling with Soviet passports. [] Kosta Lutkic acquired two first class tickets for them, and has managed to keep their identity secret. It is believed that they are traveling to the Soviet Union via Yugoslavia.

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the Yugoslav Consul in Montevideo originally requested visiting privileges for 200 persons to visit the Partisanika during the time it was in Montevideo. This number was restricted, however, by the Port Authorities, and some of the persons who had applied for permission did not visit the ship because of the strict police control which was maintained. Among those who asked to be allowed to visit the ship was Francisca Chiribao de Gomes, wife of Lu,enio Gomes, the head of the Communist Party of Uruguay.

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Comment: An article which appeared in the anti-Communist newspaper, El Dia, in Montevideo on 8 April 1948, indicated that considerable interest and curiosity have been aroused by this repatriation movement, since it involved many Yugoslavs who have resided from twenty to twenty-five years in Uruguay and whose families have been born and reared in this country. This item pointed out that many of these Yugoslavs were well established in business and that almost all of them were doing well in Uruguay. In spite of this fact, they have sold all of their possessions in Uruguay and are returning to a country which is laboring under great financial difficulties. In response to information solicited by reporters from El Dia concerning the reasons for the repatriation, members of this group have indicated that they are returning because of requests made by members of their families in Yugoslavia. This article in El Dia also indicated that individuals in this group who were questioned were very reticent about giving any sort of information, and refused to disclose their own identity. The item further pointed out that this repatriation seems somewhat similar to a repatriation move made by Germany before World War II, in order to prepare espionage agents for Latin American countries. It was indicated that Germans who were repatriated in a similar manner nearly all returned to Latin America within a short period of time.

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